OCTOBER 2, 2009
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The Second Best Thing About Payday

nih record

ABOVE • *NIH helps rebuild University of Baghdad Medical School. See p. 12.*

features

departments

Collins Hears Constituents' Needs at Town Hall Meeting

By Rich McManus

When it comes to back-to-school transitions, few faced higher expectations than NIH director Dr. Francis Collins, who on Sept. 9 addressed a Natcher auditorium filled with hundreds of constituents and stakeholders, each of whom will issue report cards on how well NIH meets his or her needs.

NIH director Dr. Francis Collins at town hall

In only his fourth week as director, Collins opened the first meeting of its size and kind with a story of his own conversion from a youngster who was sure that chemistry would be his life's work, to an indifferent passage through some badly taught biology, which he regarded as "probably the most boring of all the sciences. In 10th grade we were asked to memorize the parts of a crayfish—I didn't care about that."

His decision to attend medical school surprised even himself, he admitted, but dur-

SEE **TOWN HALL,** PAGE 6

Dr. Susan Love (c) meets with audience members.

300,000 Already Registered

Surgeon Love Offers New Research Recruitment Model

By Belle Waring

Dr. Susan Love, well-known breast surgeon, author and activist, is on a mission: to stop breast cancer before it starts.

With a grant from the Avon Foundation for Women, she's founded the nonprofit "Love/Avon Army of Women" to recruit 1 million women who are willing to consider participating in clinical research and alert them to

SEE **LOVE,** PAGE 4

Tougaloo College Students Visit NIH

Students from Tougaloo College in Jackson, Miss., visited campus recently as part of the Jackson Heart Study training program, an initiative supported by the Office of Research Training and Minority Health (ORTMH) at the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute.

The program is designed to help prepare students for careers in research, medicine, public health and epidemiology related to cardiovascular diseases and is a joint collaboration with Jackson State University, Tougaloo and the University of Mississippi Medical Center. The Jackson Heart Study is the largest cohort study to investigate the genetic factors that affect high blood pressure, heart disease, stroke, diabetes and other diseases in African Americans.

During their 2-day visit, the 12 students engaged with leaders across NIH. NHLBI deputy director Dr. Susan Shurin opened the visit, telling the students, "The future of medicine and public health is getting the best and brightest minds to address our growing challenges."

SEE **TOUGALOO,** PAGE 8

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NIH Record Office Bldg. 31, Rm. 5B41
Phone (301) 496-2125 **Fax** (301) 402-1485

Web address http://nihrecord.od.nih.gov

Editor
Richard McManus
Rich.McManus@nih.gov

Assistant Editor
Carla Garnett
Carla.Garnett@nih.gov

Staff Writers
Jan Ehrman
Jan.Ehrman@nih.gov

Valerie Lambros
Valerie.Lambros@nih.gov

Belle Waring
Belle.Waring@nih.gov

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nih record

briefs

Collins To Open 2009 Research Festival

NIH director Dr. Francis Collins will kick off the 2009 NIH Research Festival at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 6 with opening remarks followed by a timely opening plenary session: Influenza A—Pathogenesis and Pandemics. The plenary session takes place from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. in Masur Auditorium, Bldg. 10. At 8:30 a.m., symposium attendees can enjoy a continental breakfast.

The influenza A virus shows enormous adaptability in the evasion of immunity that builds up in the human population resulting in new drift and pandemic strains. The emergence of new strains, the pathogenesis of virus in the human and animal or avian reservoir host and the development of vaccines, including new methods to probe the antibody response to vaccines, will be addressed in presentations and discussions.

This year's festival, co-chaired by Dr. John O'Shea, NIAMS, and Dr. Kathryn Zoon, NIAID, offers 19 other symposia, a showcase of more than 400 posters, the 2010 FARE Awards ceremony, numerous special exhibits on resources for the intramural research community and, of course, the popular exhibit tent show. Festival events continue through Oct. 9. To obtain program information, visit http://researchfestival.nih.gov.

NLM Film Series Focuses on Evolution

For over 100 years, filmmakers have imaginatively responded to Darwin's theory of evolution. An NLM film series is featuring evolutionary monsters; evolutionary morality; degeneration, extinction and perfection; clashes between evolutionary theory and religious belief; human meddling with the "natural" course of evolution; and lots of scientists, dinosaurs, ape people, supermen and cavewomen.

Four programs remain in the series; each is held Wednesdays at noon and 6 p.m. The evening shows feature introductory speakers. The series is free and open to the public and is held in Lister Hill Auditorium, Bldg. 38A.

Oct. 7, Television evolution: *Outer Limits*, "The Sixth Finger" (50 min., 1963, with David McCallum); *Star Trek*, "Space Seed" (50 min., 1966, with William Shatner, Leonard Nimoy, Ricardo Montalban) Introduced by Mike Sappol, NLM

Oct. 14, *The Time Machine* (103 min., 1960, dir. George Pal, with Rod Taylor, Yvette Mimieux) Introduced by David Cantor, NLM

Oct. 21, *Planet of the Apes* (112 min., 1968, with Charlton Heston, Roddy McDowall; screenplay by Michael Wilson & Rod Serling) Introduced by Andrew Nolan, University of Maryland, Baltimore County

Oct. 28, *Evolution: What About God?* (55 min.) (2002; PBS/WGBH documentary) Introduced by Paul Theerman, NLM, with discussion afterward.

NIH Camera Club Holds Contest

The annual open competition of the NIH Camera Club will take place on Tuesday, Oct. 13 at 7 p.m. at the Classic Residence by Hyatt, 8100 Connecticut Ave., Chevy Chase.

Categories include monochrome prints, color prints, color slides and digital images. Entry fee is $2 per image and individuals may enter up to 4 images in each category. In each category, first place winners will receive $30, second place $20, third place $10, and honorable mention awards will receive a ribbon. Rules for submission can be found at www.nihcameraclub.com. For more information, contact Lewis Lorton at vice-president@www.nihcameraclub.com.

Help NIH Better Inform Consumers

The NIH Office of Communications and Public Liaison and the NIH Director's Council of Public Representatives have developed a Consumer Health Request for Information (RFI). This RFI will provide insight and better understanding of the health information needs and information-seeking behaviors of NIH health consumer audiences. Your participation will help enhance our efforts to provide scientifically based health information to the general public. Take a moment to visit http://nihhealthinfoRFI.nih.gov for details on how to complete the NIH Consumer Health RFI.

NEI, FDA Hold Endpoints Symposium

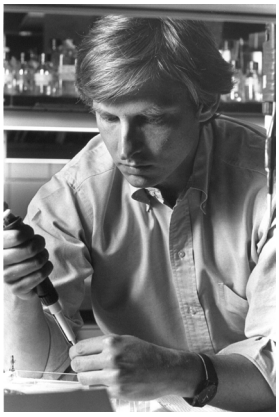
The National Eye Institute and the Food and Drug Administration are sponsoring an Oct. 13 conference to determine how vision-related patient-reported outcomes might be used to improve medical product labeling in ophthalmology.

This meeting, part of an NEI/FDA series of Endpoints Symposia, will explore the issues and challenges related to patient-reported information in ophthalmology. Participants will also look at FDA guidelines for using patient-reported outcomes and how they are incorporated for medical devices and drugs.

Faculty will include authorities in refractive surgery, cataract surgery, glaucoma and retina. FDA representatives will present insights about how the agency reviews and evaluates patient-reported outcome instruments, while industry representatives will talk about the specific issues involved in developing instruments, ophthalmic drugs and biologics.

Visit www.arvo.org/endpoints to register and download the full agenda.

Lipkin To Give 2009 Kinyoun Lecture



Dr. Ian Lipkin, a world expert known for rapidly discovering the agents of emerging infectious diseases, will deliver the annual NIAID Kinyoun Lecture on Thursday, Oct. 8 at 2 p.m. in Masur Auditorium, Bldg. 10. Lipkin is director of the Center for Infection and Immunity and John Snow professor of epidemiology at Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health.

In his talk, "Microbe Hunting in the 21st Century," Lipkin will provide a staged strategy for using analytic tools in disease investigation and detection. He will detail the strengths and limitations of these tools and illustrate how he uses them in novel ways to solve clinical problems.

The diagnostic methods Lipkin has developed, including MassTag-PCR, the GreeneChip diagnostic and high-throughput sequencing, have revolutionized microbiology by providing rapid, sensitive tools for surveillance and diagnosis of diseases. Using these techniques in his own laboratory, he has revealed the links between infectious and chronic diseases and advanced the discovery, understanding and management of emerging diseases such as West Nile virus infection, SARS and LuJo virus—a new virus identified in a hemorrhagic fever outbreak in Zambia and South Africa in 2008.

Lipkin directs the Northeast Biodefense Center, one of eleven NIAID Regional Centers of Excellence for Biodefense and Emerging Infectious Diseases. In this position, he oversees a consortium of 28 academic and government institutions that integrate medical research with technology to detect and counter the effects of emerging or reemerging infectious diseases.

The Kinyoun Lecture, which honors Dr. Joseph Kinyoun, highlights advances in immunology and infectious disease research. NIH traces its roots to the Laboratory of Hygiene, which Kinyoun established in 1887 on Staten Island, to find new ways to screen for infectious diseases.

Wahl Slated to Deliver 7th Roberts Lecture, Oct. 15

Dr. Sharon Wahl will give the next Anita B. Roberts lecture.

The NIH women scientist advisors committee and Office of Research on Women's Health announce the seventh lecture in the Anita B. Roberts Lecture Series, which highlights outstanding research achievements of women scientists in the Intramural Research Program. Dr. Sharon Wahl will discuss "Host Defense Gone Awry: From Inflammation to Cancer," on Thursday, Oct. 15 at 1 p.m. in Lipsett Amphitheater, Bldg. 10.

Wahl is chief of the Oral Infection and Immunity Branch, NIDCR, and chief of the cellular and clinical immunology section. Her research focuses on the biological mechanisms that regulate inflammatory processes and how their dysregulation contributes to the development of infectious and autoimmune diseases. Projects in her lab aim to examine the effects of different therapeutic modalities on the regulation of immunopathological conditions that contribute to cancer progression, aberrant wound healing, infection by pathogens such as HIV and the development of allergic/asthmatic diseases.

The lecture is open to the public. Sign language interpreters will be provided on request. Individuals who need reasonable accommodation to participate should contact Deirdre Andrews at (301) 496-3891 and/or the Federal Relay at 1-800-877-8339, 5 days prior to the lecture.

Billie Jean King Boosts NIH Charities

In July, the Washington Kastles, the local World Team Tennis squad, selected NIH Charities to be the beneficiary of a between-match auction among spectators. Auction items, donated by Geico, included Super Bowl tickets and transportation to the game. Tennis star Billie Jean King (c) topped all bidders with $5,000 to help the charities. At left is Heidi Grolig, executive director of Friends of the Clinical Center (FOCC), which provides emergency aid to patients and their families at the CC. At right is R&W President Randy Schools. At all 8 Kastles home games, volunteers from NIH manned a booth sponsored by Geico and gave out information on Camp Fantastic, the Children's Inn at NIH and FOCC. The team, which featured Serena Williams, won the WTT championship. King said she was glad to assist the NIH Charities.

PHOTO: AMY SNYDER

LOVE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

***Above**:*
Dr. Susan Love describes how she assembled an Army of Women to participate in clinical trials.

PHOTOS: ERNIE BRANSON

available studies.

"When I was a resident in Boston [at Beth Israel Hospital]," Love told a packed EPN conference room, "if you had an abnormal Pap [Papanicolaou smear, a test for cervical cancer] then you had a total hysterectomy. Now we have a vaccine. After only 30 years…with no pink ribbons. No marches. No runs."

That breakthrough, Love said, is linked in part to the initial lack of animal models for cervical cancer research. Because scientists focused their studies on women, they accelerated the timeline.

Now, said Love, breast cancer research needs to focus on women because "we want to go beyond the cure to what is the cause and how can we prevent it?…We've lost sight of the big picture because we've moved so far into the molecular."

The need is great. In the U.S., breast cancer affects one in eight women and kills more women than any other cancer except lung cancer.

The Army of Women has the potential not only to increase recruitment of healthy women for research into the cause and prevention of the disease but also to help improve recruitment for clinical trials in those women who develop breast cancer, said Love.

"We go and try to get people at the time of diagnosis or recurrence when they're most risk-averse, most frightened," she continued. "But if we can get women comfortable with being in research on a large scale with a million-woman cohort, then we can change public opinion [about research], and when they are diagnosed they will be asking for a trial."

The Love/Avon Army of Women (AOW) web site lets you register to receive emails about approved studies. (Men are welcome, although breast cancer is relatively rare in men.)

If you fit the criteria for a given study, then you can RSVP and be screened on the site.

Since October 2008, AOW has already registered almost 300,000 women for basic scientific and epidemiological studies.

The web site also offers a separate section for scientists with questions on studies and grant support.

The second phase, coming this fall, will invite women to participate in a 20-year longitudinal cohort called the "Health of Women" Study or HOW.

"This develops a model for '21st-century Big Science,'" Love said. "It educates women in the research process; it includes women in the collection and maintenance of data, thus engaging women in figuring out key clinical questions of the day."

The HIPAA-compliant web site is designed to protect privacy, Love said, and could serve as a model for the use of electronic medical records.

AOW is not a tissue bank, a database or a fundraising site. It's a pool of healthy women—whether normal, high-risk for breast cancer or survivor—poised to become "the first large Internet-based cohort."

And it isn't limited to breast cancer. Love is planning to expand the use of the HOW study beyond breast cancer over the next few years.

With an endorsement from the AARP as well as a presence on Facebook, she's hoping to gather volunteers across the age spectrum and other demographics.

"African-American breast cancer has a separate set of risk factors," she noted. "We need to get everybody in the tent."

AOW is already on the march. In one national study, 1,600 volunteers were recruited in 48 hours. A Stanford trial got such a great response "they were able to increase their N [number of subjects]," Love said, and sought increased funding to support the bump.

And the challenges?

"Women complain that there have not been any studies for which they are eligible," she said. "We need to increase minority recruitment. And there's the technological challenge of translation into Spanish and expanding the social network."

Love recalled asking a male colleague to explain

the lack of breast cancer studies using women instead of animal models.

His reply: "Women are just too messy."

The reasoning goes roughly like this: Study design would need to adjust for female variables like menstrual cycle, pregnancy and menopause.

It's also possible that women's omni-directional lives (tugged by family/job/community) affect recruitment and retention.

Historical evidence also shows that, as a research specialty, women's health has not always been highly regarded.

A major breakthrough came with the Women's Health Initiative in 1991. When it was launched, HHS Secretary Louis Sullivan said, "Health research for women is finally moving toward the equal status it deserves."

Love has been active in the women's health care movement since the early 1970s.

"As [physicians]," she said, "we need to admit that we don't know everything.

"Women will revolutionize how we do research," she continued. "A new way, one that uses less money. By responding to this need, the Army of Women will change the face of breast cancer research."

For more information, visit www.armyofwomen.org/.

2009 CFC Calendar of Events

The 2009 Combined Federal Campaign kicked off Oct. 1 with an event on the plaza between Bldgs. 31 and 33. Upcoming campaign events include:

- **Giddy'up Horse Derby**, Thursday, Oct. 8, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Rockledge cluster
- **Jeopardy for $2.2 Million**, IC Directors Event, Thursday, Oct. 22, 10-11:30 a.m., Bldg. 1
- **Let's Dress Up**, R&W Halloween Party, Thursday, Oct. 29, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Bldg. 31
- **Wii Play!**, Tuesday, Nov. 3, 11 a.m. -1 p.m., Neuroscience Bldg.

The graduating class of the 2009 NINR Summer Genetics Institute

NINR Summer Genetics Institute Marks 10th Year

This past summer, NINR held its 10th annual Summer Genetics Institute (SGI) on campus. An intensive program featuring lecture and hands-on laboratory training, the SGI is designed to provide graduate students, faculty and clinicians with a foundation in molecular genetics for use in research and clinical practice.

A total of 22 students from across the country, representing 15 different universities, completed this year's program. At the graduation ceremony, NINR director Dr. Patricia Grady remarked to the class, "In the 21st century, genetics and genomics, both individual and population-based, are playing an increasingly central role in the health sciences…Your experience at the SGI has provided you with critical foundational knowledge and skills that will inform your work in the years ahead."

Over SGI's decade of existence, 182 individuals have completed the course. They have been a highly motivated and productive group, accounting for more than 130 peer-reviewed publications. In addition, one-third of the graduates have gone on to receive federal funding for their research, while others have received support from a variety of public and private sources.

This year marked the last SGI in its original 2-month format. Newly redesigned for 2010, the program will be condensed to 1 month and be administered by the Foundation for Advanced Education in the Sciences at NIH as one of its Bio-Trac courses. Participants who successfully complete the program will receive 8 hours of graduate-level college credit. NINR will continue to sponsor the SGI at no cost to participants and it will be taught by top scientists active in genetics research.

The dates for next year's SGI are June 7-July 2. The application due date is Dec. 31. For more information about the SGI, visit www.ninr.nih.gov/Training/SGI. —**Ray Bingham**

TOWN HALL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Above, l:
An attendee from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill poses a question at the recent town hall.

Above, r:
Collins had time to answer more than a dozen inquiries from attendees lined up at the microphones, but offered an email address for additional inquiries.

PHOTOS: BILL BRANSON

ing his first year, in lectures given by a pediatrician who specialized in genetics, he found his calling.

The professor brought patients afflicted with genetic disorders, including sickle cell disease, neurofibromatosis and Down syndrome, to class and Collins realized that "one small glitch in a person's genome could cause untold misery to the patient and family. That was 35 years ago. Never could I have contemplated being here today as NIH director. I am honored by it, and daunted by it and I'm going to need your help."

Collins assured the gathering that he remains committed to basic, investigator-initiated research, which he called "the bedrock of NIH's efforts," and that his focus, notwithstanding his leadership of the Human Genome Project, is not entirely on Big Science. "Big Science can empower everyone," he allowed. "It can put tools in the hands of investigators and enable them to go more quickly."

Before describing his five major themes/opportunities for NIH, he cautioned, "Don't keep score on particular examples."

The five themes were the same handful he shared at a town hall meeting with employees on Aug. 17, his first day on the job: genomics and other high-throughput technology to understand fundamental biology and uncover causes of specific diseases; translating basic science into new and better treatments; putting science to work for the benefit of health care reform; more focus on global health; and reinvigorating and empowering the biomedical research community.

He also called the $10.4 billion addition to the NIH budget via the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act "an exceptional opportunity." He expects stimulus money to allow the therapeutic targeting of 20-25 more cancer tumor types, in addition to advances in AIDS, H1N1 flu, autism, heart disease, health disparities and more.

"I need your help," he concluded, before opening the session to questions. "Science is not a 100-yard dash, it's a marathon. I need your help in developing a common and consistent voice in support of biomedical research—stories of how research has changed lives for the better. We need to develop new and compelling ways to describe NIH research to decisionmakers. And we need to keep the communication channels wide open."

He invited constituents to contact NIH at the email address NIH-LISTENS@nih.gov. "I promise I will pay close attention to it. We are a community…of hope." Referring to his reputation as a musician who has now been elevated to lead the symphony, Collins noted, "Maybe I'm a little bit of a conductor here—I will try not to drop the baton."

During a Q&A session that ran 20 minutes overtime, Collins fielded more than a dozen questions on such topics as enlarging the NIH budget, paying more attention to cultural issues as they affect health, pursuing more joint funding opportunities with private industry, recruiting a cadre of biostatisticians, reducing regulatory barriers and attending to the health needs of collegians. To those left at the mics as the session ended, Collins pledged, "I want to continue this communication."

digest

Electronic Nose Sniffs Out Toxins

Imagine a polka-dotted postage stamp-sized sensor that can sniff out some known poisonous gases and toxins and show the results simply by changing colors. Support for developing this electronic nose comes from the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences. Such sensors are being generated as part of the NIH Genes, Environment and Health Initiative. The new technology, discussed in September's issue of *Nature Chemistry*, could be useful in detecting high exposures to toxic industrial chemicals that pose serious health risks in the workplace or through accidents. While physicists have radiation badges to protect them at work, chemists and workers who handle chemicals do not have equivalent devices to monitor their exposure to potentially toxic chemicals. The investigators hope to be able to market the wearable sensor within a few years. The paper's senior author, Dr. Kenneth Suslick of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and colleagues have created what they refer to as an optoelectronic nose—an artificial nose for detecting toxic industrial chemicals (TICs) that is simple, fast, inexpensive and works by visualizing colors. "We have a disposable 36-dye sensor array that changes colors when exposed to different chemicals," Suslick said. "The pattern of the color change is a unique molecular fingerprint for any toxic gas and also tells us its concentration. By comparing that pattern to a library of color fingerprints, we can identify and quantify the TICs in a matter of seconds."

Antimicrobial Resistance Is Focus of New Clinical Trials

Scientists are addressing the threat of antimicrobial drug resistance by launching two new clinical trials aimed at prolonging the effectiveness of currently available antibacterial drugs. The concept underlying both studies: Less is more. The 6-year contracts from NIAID are part of an initiative to help answer key questions about proper antimicrobial doses, treatment duration and whether antimicrobial treatment is necessary in all cases. Many infectious diseases are increasingly difficult to treat because bacteria and other microbes have developed resistance to commonly used antimicrobial drugs. Microbial drug resistance is driven by a variety of forces, including expanded use of antimicrobial drugs in human and animal health care. According to one estimate, between 5 and 10 percent of all hospitalized patients in the U.S. develop a drug-resistant infection of some kind, leading to an added $5 billion in annual health care costs. "Historically, development of new antimicrobials has moved at a much slower pace than the evolution of resistance to those treatments, so we need to look at preserving the usefulness of the drugs we have," says Dr. Dennis M. Dixon of NIAID's Bacteriology and Mycology Branch. "One way to reduce the risk of resistance, and therefore to preserve antimicrobials, is to reduce unnecessary use of these drugs."

New Web Site Promotes Interoperable Newborn Screening Data

The National Library of Medicine recently launched the Newborn Screening Coding and Terminology Guide, an important step toward efficient electronic exchange of standard newborn screening data. The new web site was created in collaboration with the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology, the Health Resources and Services Administration and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention—all components of HHS—as well as a number of professional organizations, to enable more effective use of newborn screening test results in assessing child health and improving lifelong health care. Newborn screening is an important part of public health, but use of test results is complicated by wide variations among states in the ways tests are conducted and results recorded—and by inefficient, paper-based communication. The current situation can delay rapid attention to a child's health problems and it creates frustration and extra work for parents, health care providers and public health authorities. The new web site is a translator, to help deal with current complexity and to promote more efficient electronic exchange of newborn screening information in the future. The web site is designed to help states move toward the use of common terminology and coding standards, a key step in enabling electronic exchange of laboratory test information as well as readying newborn screening information for inclusion in electronic health records.—**compiled by Carla Garnett**

NLM recently launched the Newborn Screening Coding and Terminology Guide, a translator web site to help deal with current complexity and promote more efficient electronic exchange of newborn screening information.

TOUGALOO

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

***Above l**:*
Dr. Robert Hoyt (l) of NHLBI's Laboratory of Animal Medicine and Surgery takes students on a tour of his lab.

***Above r**:*
Calvin Jackson (in suit), chief of NIH's News Media Branch, is surrounded by students of his alma mater, Tougaloo College.

***Below**:*
In the front row are (from l) Tougaloo College chaperone Dr. Nimr Fahmy; Dr. Helena Mishoe, director of NHLBI's Office of Research Training and Minority Health (ORTMH); Dr. Susan Shurin, deputy director, NHLBI; Tamera D. Hughes; chaperone Mary M. Crump; Cheryl Nelson, health statistician, NHLBI; Dr. Chitra Krishnamurti, deputy director, ORTMH; Edward Lyles, intern in that office. In the middle row are (from l) Jordan Henly, Zakia Butler, Ashley Poullard, Grejika Abram, Dr. Nara Gavini, ORTMH, and Morgan Woerner, NHLBI press assistant. At rear are (from l) Edjohnier Phillips, Jasmine T. Washington, Obie McNair, Maurice Crawford, JeMarcus Welch, Janae' Roberts and Daren Walters.

PHOTOS: BILL BRANSON

ORTMH director Dr. Helena Mishoe and her deputy Dr. Chitra Krishnamurti, who helped direct much of the preparation for the program, introduced a new NHLBI initiative, eMentoring, which is designed to facilitate online mentoring to students and junior faculty in a science-related field.

Students also met Tougaloo alumni including Calvin Jackson, chief of the News Media Branch in NIH's Office of Communications and Public Liaison, and NCI research fellows Drs. Audray Harris and Kimberly Jackson, all of whom shared stories with the students and reflected on how their experiences at Tougaloo helped define who and where they are today as members of the NIH community.

On the second day, the students visited with NHLBI interns as part of a panel discussion. Intramural interns Charisse Henry, Akin Oyalowo, Alonzo Jalan and Fikirte Ashine discussed their backgrounds and shared insights about their research programs. Tougaloo student Janae' Roberts found the panel particularly interesting and said, "Listening to Charisse talk about how she majored in science and minored in Spanish was really inspiring—it was great to hear about her NHLBI life experiences."

The tour included visits to the NHLBI laboratories of Drs. Anthony Aletras, Joel Moss and Robert Hoyt, all of whom provided tours and answered questions.

The visiting students are currently pursuing a variety of undergraduate degrees from biology and chemistry to mass communications. After listening to Jackson discuss his position and the role of OCPL, student Obie McNair, a mass communications major, said, "What impacted me was to see how communications is applied at the NIH. I have an interest in science and communications and now I know how to combine the two."

The students' visit to NIH marks the sixth year of the program. Said Mishoe, "Each year we are excited to bring a new cadre of Tougaloo scholars to the NIH. The power of their imagination after visiting the NIH makes their career possibilities truly infinite. We are delighted to play a part in their future."—**Morgan Woerner**

feedback

Have a question about some aspect of working at NIH? You can post anonymous queries at www.nih.gov/nihrecord/index.htm (click on the Feedback icon) and we'll try to provide answers.

Feedback: On late-arrival days it is sometimes necessary to park in the "punishment" lot (41 complex). Due to the large number of oversized commercial vehicles (especially shuttle buses) squatting in the spaces closest to campus, the hike to any point of interest has become longer. Would it be possible for these prime spots to be reserved for passenger cars?

Answer from the Division of Amenities and Transportation Services, ORS: The division has worked with the shuttle service provider in locating the vehicles while not in use to the area closest to campus. This was done in part to decrease the early morning noise that impacted residents in the area. Most of the shuttles in these spaces operate during normal work hours and, in effect, the spaces open up for employee parking throughout the day.

On most occasions, there is ample parking in Lot 41 for employees when other locations are full. Lot 41 is our largest surface parking area and is used by a combination of contractors with larger vehicles, a number of contractor field office trailers as well as employees. There are three NIH Shuttle stops within the lot and shuttles circulate approximately every 10 minutes between the hours of 6 a.m. through 7 p.m. From 7 p.m. until midnight, the After Hours Shuttle services this parking area. In the event that Lot 41 is full, employees may also want to consider parking in either MLP-8 or the Natcher Garage as those facilities frequently are not filled to capacity or have stacked parking available.

Feedback: I have noticed two problems for employees entering and exiting the campus. Traffic entering the campus in the morning at the north end from Rockville Pike to access North Dr. is forced to use the left entrance lane as the right lane is blocked with cones. This causes traffic to back up on the Pike as a wider swing is required to get in the left lane. Why not open both lanes? Or just the right one? Similarly, exiting the campus on South Dr. at 5 p.m. to get onto Old Georgetown Rd., the police have set up a cone blockade so that the left exit lane is partially blocked. The reason for this cone block is unclear and it causes traffic to back up onto South Dr. and delays exiting. We all want to get home ASAP. In fact, the lane usage from this exit is not appropriate as the left lane is for left turns and going straight on Greentree while the right lane is for right turns only. The right lane is rarely used to make a right on Old Georgetown as most drivers use Center Dr. for this purpose. The right lane should be for right turns and those going straight to Greentree and the left lane should be used for left turns only onto Old Georgetown.

Answer from ORS/ORF: Traffic cones are placed along the two parallel lanes on North Dr. and Rockville Pike in order to create one center lane with the goal of slowing the speed of motor vehicles entering the campus and to draw additional attention to the pedestrian crosswalk at the entrance. NIH has received numerous complaints about the unacceptably high speed at which vehicles were entering North Dr. from Rockville Pike and the frequent disregard for pedestrian safety in the crosswalk. Although the cones are not a permanent solution, this measure has resulted in meeting, to a degree, the goal of decreased speeds and greater observance of crosswalk yielding to pedestrians. As a long-term solution, NIH is studying the feasibility of reconfiguring the entire intersection as part of an overall streetscape plan along the entire 355 corridor bordering the NIH property.

At South Dr. and Old Georgetown Rd., the traffic cones are in place as enhanced safety for pedestrians leaving the campus. Many pedestrians were walking into the roadway around the open security gate to exit the campus, some walking directly into the path of exiting motor vehicles with their backs to traffic. Frequent and repeated requests by NIH police officers to use the card reader controlled pedestrian exit were ignored. Additionally, visitors wishing to exit the campus from this location are unable to do so using the pedestrian "portal" and must exit through the open vehicle entrance gate. The police created an "island" with the cones that will allow them to safely exit with far less chance of being in the direct path of those vehicles. Since the pedestrians are more vulnerable, we believe that this solution, albeit a temporary one, was needed to prevent them from voluntarily placing themselves in harm's way. As a long-term solution, NIH plans to add an additional rotating turnstile exit that will allow employees and visitors to safely exit the campus without the need to enter the roadway.

Feedback: Help, help! I want to get off campus and spend time with my family before bedtime. I leave work at 4:30 p.m. As we are now enjoying less traffic during the summer months I can expect to get off campus with only one to two changes of stoplights on Wilson Dr./Rockville Pike. However I dread the rest of the year. Traffic can be backed up to Bldg. 1 trying to leave campus. Cars on Rockville Pike block us from entering the intersection. The traffic lights sometimes change to red in less than 10 seconds. Can anything be done to help us get home? What about when Walter Reed moves in next door? Please tell me that this is being looked into and that there is hope.

Answer from ORF/ORS: The signal timing along Rockville Pike could potentially be improved. NIH has mentioned this to the Maryland State Highway Administration and they are looking at optimizing signal timing along the corridor in addition to the physical changes they are studying at individual intersections. All of the involved agencies (NIH, National Naval Medical Center, Maryland Department of Transportation, Maryland SHA, Montgomery County Department of Transportation, Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission and the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority) are now meeting monthly to coordinate transportation management and transportation improvements for vehicles, bicyclists, pedestrians and transit riders to improve access to the area for residents, employees and visitors.

milestones

NIH Wins White House Environmental Award

NIH was recently honored to both host the White House "Closing the Circle" (CTC) award ceremony and receive one of the awards. Over the last 15 years, the White House has presented these awards to federal employees in recognition of their commitment to improving environmental performance and conditions at government facilities.

On hand for the award ceremony were (from l) Michelle Moore, Federal Environmental Executive; Kenny Floyd, director, Division of Environmental Protection (DEP); Charlyn Lee, Waste and Resource Recovery Branch, DEP; Edward Rau, developer of the decommissioning protocol at DEP.

"We are honored for the recognition of NIH's best management practices," said Kenny Floyd, director of the Office of Research Facilities' Division of Environmental Protection, at the annual Federal Environmental Symposium, where the focus was on sharing success stories and recognizing CTC award recipients.

"The President believes that we all have a responsibility to our children to leave this Earth better than we found it. All Americans must have a vested interest in the protection and proper maintenance of our irreplaceable national treasures," said Dana Arnold of the Office of the Federal Environmental Executive (OFEE). "Our award winners this year have worked hard and long in their respective agencies and facilities to ensure that their policies, programs and practices lead us to a healthier, better sustainable and economically stronger America."

This year, the CTC awards were highly competitive. Fifteen winners and 13 honorable mentions were selected by a committee of experts from nearly 200 nominations in the areas of environmental management systems, pollution prevention, recycling, green product purchasing, alternative fuels, electronics stewardship and sustainable buildings.

ORF received the CTC award for its laboratory decommissioning protocol that improves the efficiency of hazardous substance assessment and removal, reduces energy use and maximizes the recovery of recyclable materials during renovation and demolition activities. The award was in the category "Sowing the Seeds for Change," which recognizes the new whole-building approach of the protocol methodology and its wide application by numerous other government agencies, universities and laboratory facilities. It was also the basis for the new national standard on decommissioning issued by the American Industrial Hygiene Association/American National Standards Institute.

Created by executive order, the OFEE is a task force under the White House Council on Environmental Quality. It promotes the greening of the federal government.

OBSSR Welcomes New OppNet Coordinator Elwood

Dr. Bill Elwood recently joined the Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research as coordinator for the new NIH Basic Behavioral and Social Science Opportunity Network (OppNet). He also will coordinate and promote other OBSSR-led initiatives that advance research in the basic behavioral and social sciences. Before joining OBSSR, Elwood worked at the Center for Scientific Review, where he was scientific review officer for the community-level health promotion study section for 5 years. During that time, he served on and chaired a variety of trans-NIH committees including the community-based participatory research scientific interest group, the NIH Diversity Council and the Staff Training in Extramural Programs committee.

Elwood received his Ph.D. in human communication from Purdue University. His scientific books and articles have concentrated on the attitudes and beliefs of hard-to-reach populations and the influences that cultural and personal values and community settings have on mental health, health-related behaviors and participation in civic life. His research was supported by NIH, the Ounce of Prevention Fund, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration and World Health Organization/Pan American Health Organization.

Prior to joining NIH, Elwood conducted community-based research throughout the U.S. and Mexico on substance abuse prevention, drug use epidemiology, substance abuse treatment, evaluations of welfare reform programs and public housing initiatives and STD/HIV-intervention efficacy studies. He also established the Houston community drug epidemiology work group and served as associate American editor of *AIDS Care: Psychological and Socio-medical Aspects of AIDS/HIV*.

NIGMS director Dr. Jeremy Berg (front, c) welcomes new members to council. Shown are Dr. John E. Johnson (front, l), Dr. Carolyn R. Bertozzi,(front, r). At rear are (from l) Dr. Robert F. Murphy, ad hoc member Dr. James L. Stevens and Dr. Michael Caldwell.

New Members Join NIGMS Council

Several new members have joined the National Advisory General Medical Sciences Council:

Dr. John E. Johnson is a professor of molecular biology at the Scripps Research Institute. He studies the structure of viruses to understand the assembly and maturation of virus particles in order to develop novel antiviral agents.

Dr. Robert F. Murphy is the Ray and Stephanie Lane professor of computational biology at Carnegie Mellon University, where he also directs the Lane Center for Computational Biology and co-directs the Joint CMU-Pitt Ph.D. program in computational biology. He applies computational methods to analyze fluorescence microscope images.

Dr. Michael Caldwell is the founder of the Personalized Medicine Research Projects and director of the Wound Healing Program at the Marshfield Clinic. His research focuses on the genetic basis of the body's response to warfarin.

In addition, Dr. Carolyn R. Bertozzi, who was appointed late last year, is a professor of chemistry and molecular and cell biology at the University of California, Berkeley, where she also serves as director of the Molecular Foundry at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. Her research focuses on cell-surface interactions that contribute to human health and disease, with specific projects in the areas of cancer, inflammation and bacterial infection.

Five Join NICHD Advisory Council

Five new appointments have been made to the National Advisory Child Health and Human Development Council. The new members are:

Dr. Robert E. Braun, chair of research and associate director, Jackson Laboratory, Bar Harbor, Me. His main area of expertise is in the developmental genetics of male reproduction; he has an interest in both male infertility and the development of novel male contraceptives.

Dr. Rebecca L. Craik, professor and chair, department of physical therapy, Arcadia University, Glenside, Pa. She has dedicated her career to the advancement of medical rehabilitation with a focus on the development of a research agenda for physical therapy.

Dr. Ann N. James, senior university counsel, Office of the General Counsel, Stanford University. She has a 30-year career in the health care field as a scientist, health care lawyer, corporate executive, management consultant and board member.

NICHD director Dr. Duane Alexander (far r) and deputy director Dr. Yvonne Maddox (l) welcome (from l) Dr. Ann N. James, Dr. Robert E. Braun, Dr. Priya S. Kishnani, Dr. David S. Louder and Dr. Rebecca Craik to the council.

Dr. Priya S. Kishnani, professor, department of pediatrics-medical genetics, Duke University Medical Center. Her primary focus has been the translation of laboratory science into the clinical arena, especially in the area of such therapeutic interventions as enzyme replacement therapy and small molecules.

Dr. David S. Louder, director, medical operations, Department of Defense, Bolling Air Force Base, Washington, D.C. (*ex officio* member). He is also clinical assistant professor at the University of Maryland School of Medicine, Baltimore.

Retiree Wetzel Dies, Worked in Four ICs

By Jilliene Mitchell

Dr. Bruce Keirn Wetzel, 73, who served as a research biologist and scientific review administrator during his 38-year NIH career, died on July 27 from pancreatic cancer.

A cell biologist/microscopist, Wetzel retired from NIGMS in 2000 after 15 years in the Office of Scientific Review (OSR). He was responsible for managing the review of research and research training grants in the areas of trauma and burn injury, systems and integrative biology and anesthesiology.

"Bruce had a great *joie de vivre* and was as passionate about setting up the best possible review committee as he was about pairing the perfect cheese with the perfect wine," said Dr. Helen Sunshine, OSR chief. "He formed strong connections to the scientists he interacted with through his work. And he was recognized by the Shock Society in 1998 for his dedication and contributions to the trauma and burn injury research and training communities."

"Bruce approached the review process as he did life in general—as a quest for understanding, pretty much on his own schedule, based on passion and a keen intellect," said Dr. Scott Somers, a program director in the NIGMS Division of Pharmacology, Physiology and Biological Chemistry. "His fundamental belief and guiding principle was of the individual's paramount importance, meaning that all people should be listened to and heard. Working with Bruce was always interesting, educational and fun. He will be missed."

Prior to joining NIGMS, Wetzel worked for a year as an executive secretary in the special review section in what is now the Center for Scientific Review. Before that, he worked in the intramural program, first in the Laboratory of Experimental Pathology at the former National Institute of Arthritis and Metabolic Diseases from 1961 to 1971 and then in the Dermatology Branch at the National Cancer Institute from 1971 to 1983.

Wetzel is survived by his wife, Sandy Occhipinti; two daughters, Heather Thies and Amber Arana; and sister, Sue Crist.

Donations in his memory may be made to Doctors Without Borders or the American Civil Liberties Union.

NIH Donates Journals to Baghdad Medical School

NIH has gone the extra mile in helping rebuild the University of Baghdad Medical School by donating more than 5,000 linear feet of medical journals.

About 50,000 journals, with a subscription value of $27 million, were being cleared from the shelves at the NIH Library in the Clinical Center. The Fogarty International Center—working closely with the Iraqi embassy, the U.S. Agency for International Development and International Relief and Development, the nongovernmental organization that arranged for the shipment to Iraq—facilitated the transfer of the periodicals.

"Restocking the major medical library in Iraq will provide students, teachers and researchers access to the most up-to-date advances in medical research," said Fogarty director Dr. Roger Glass. "It fulfills in a unique way Fogarty's mission to advance training and research in global health while building bridges to health professionals in resource-poor countries."

Judy Levin, Fogarty's program officer for the Middle East and North Africa, and Dr. Abdul Hadi al-Khalili, cultural attaché at the Iraqi embassy, were instrumental in brokering the transfer.

The Iraqi medical community is not yet able to access journals online, so the paper versions could be an effective interim solution for the rebuilding nation.

"The mental health community will especially benefit," Al-Khalili said. "More than 30 of the journals are in psychology and over 60 of them are psychiatric journals.

"We hope this great donation will be the inspiring nucleus for creating an Iraqi National Library of Medicine serving not only the Iraqi medical community but the whole region," Al-Khalili added.

Shipping the publications in 1,740 boxes was a large-scale effort involving NIH library staff, contractors and movers.

USAID, a major partner in the U.S. government's reconstruction effort in Iraq, paid the cost of shipping.

At left, Omar Cisneros helps clear shelves at the NIH Library of thousands of medical journals to be sent to Iraq. At right, Doris Hood, NIH Library specialist, packs boxes of the journals in preparation for shipping to Baghdad.

PHOTOS: JEFF GRAY

Outdoor Film Festival Draws 50K+ Patrons

The 13th annual Comcast Film Festival drew more than 50,000 patrons to the grounds of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association & Strathmore Aug. 14-21. In addition to the 8 free movies, food was available and a raffle was held to benefit the NIH Charities (Friends of the Clinical Center, the Children's Inn and Camp Fantastic/Special Love). Audiences saw a mix of current movie hits such as The Curious Case of Benjamin Button *and* The Dark Knight *along with classics such as* Singing in the Rain. *The largest attendance was for* Slumdog Millionaire, *with over 7,000 on hand. In the photo above, entertainer Anil Rock is dwarfed by the big screen as he performs before the movies. Below, the audience for the movie* Twilight *enjoys a picnic—the movie festival is a great place for friends to gather and share their summer experiences.*

Correction

In the Sept. 18 issue of the *NIH Record*, we inaccurately reported that Sen. Edward Kennedy held the first-ever congressional hearing on AIDS in 1987. The first-ever congressional hearing on AIDS was held in April 1982 by Rep. Henry Waxman (D-CA). There were also other hearings on AIDS before Kennedy's 1987 hearing.

Rauscher To Give Khoury Lecture

Dr. Frank J. Rauscher, III, will present the annual George Khoury Lecture as part of the Wednesday Afternoon Lecture Series on Oct. 14 at 3 p.m. in Masur Auditorium, Bldg. 10. As professor and founder of the Gene Expression and Regulation Program, deputy director for basic science at the Wistar Institute Cancer Center in Philadelphia and editor-in-chief of *Cancer Research*, Rauscher will present "Gridlock on the Genomic Beltway: How Epigenetic Gene Silencing Shapes our Cellular Phenotypes." The lecture is also available via live webcast at http://videocast.nih.gov. Contact Sarah Freeman at (301) 594-6747 or sarah.freeman@nih.gov with questions.